

an invalid leaves home for a warmer climate, that he hopes there freely to go abroad, and to see a softer sky than his own, and to breathe a milder air; and in a walk or a ride, or a drive, to enjoy the beauty of a tropical verdure; and, under all these influences, to feel an exhilaration of his spirits, and a renovation of strength, for which he could hardly have hoped in a confinement here of six months to his chamber."

These hopes, Mr. T. adds, may be realized in Santa Cruz. From about nine in the morning, however, until four in the evening, the heat is too great for outdoor exercise, but two hours exercise may be taken in the open air before breakfast by an early riser, and one hour before sunset. The invalid will find, however, that he can walk but little, and he must have at command a horse, a pony or a gig. These may be hired at reasonable prices. The roads throughout the island are highly favourable to the enjoyment of a ride or a drive, being good, and the scenery beautiful, particularly around West End.

The principal town on the island is Bassin, but invalids principally resort to West End, a small town about fourteen miles distant from the former. Mr. T. thinks, however, he should prefer Bassin as a residence, unless there should be a well situated and well kept boarding house established in the country. The rides about West End are the more agreeable, but the loss would be more than compensated for, he thinks, by the gain in respect to light and air, by residing at Bassin. There are several good boarding houses in both towns, and the price of boarding is reasonable, \$10 a week.

We must not conclude this brief notice without adverting to the author's warm expressions of gratitude to his physician, (Dr. J. C. Warren,) for his professional attentions. These acknowledgments are alike honourable to the heart of the author, and to the eminent physician to whom they are offered.

Mr. Tuckerman's letter may be consulted with advantage by invalids, who propose passing a winter in Santa Cruz, for the benefit of their health.

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ART. XVI. *A Practical Treatise on the principal Diseases of the Lungs, considered especially in relation to the particular tissues affected.* By G. HUME WEATHERHEAD, M. D., Member of the Royal College of Physicians; Lecturer on the Principles and Practice of Medicine, and on Materia Medica and Therapeutics at the Blenheim Street School of Medicine, &c. John Churchill. London: 1837. 8vo., pp. 184. One coloured plate.

In the above work, containing less than two hundred pages, the author endeavours to give an account of the principal diseases of the lungs, their pathology, treatment, &c. He does not inform us for what class of readers his production is especially intended. If written for the use of medical students it seems to us that it treats too slightly of the symptoms and morbid appearances, whilst it abounds too much in doubtful explanations of the phenomena of disease and the *modus operandi* of remedies. On the other hand, it can hardly be supposed that the author had in view the instruction of his fellow practitioners, inasmuch as we cannot perceive that he has added any thing to the stock of knowledge which we already possess. He is evidently most grievously afflicted with the mania of explaining every thing, and the confidence with which he urges his *rationales* is truly astounding. Without detailing the history of a single case, or giving us any new facts which might throw light upon the diseases of which he treats, he merely traces a brief and very incomplete outline of their causes, symptoms, &c. the substance of which may be found in almost every other work on the same subject. The nature of the diseases, and the mode of production of the principal phenomena, &c. are then explained in a manner calculated to give us a most exalted idea of the simplicity, but not of the profundity, of our author's conceptions. The scantiness of the proofs by

which these explanations are supported, induces us to suppose that he looked upon them as almost self-evident propositions, which when once clearly announced must command universal credence.

Inasmuch, however, as the same views have been repeatedly expressed in a manner not materially differing from that of our author, without obtaining a general assent, it might have been well for the benefit of those who have been hitherto unable to appreciate their value, to have placed them in new points of view, or enforced them by additional arguments. Nothing of the kind, however, is discoverable.

It is really difficult to conceive of any useful purpose which a book, like the one before us, can serve. To students, the study of it would be injurious, because it would lead them to receive opinions for facts, and superficial generalizations for legitimate deductions, whilst at the same time it would tend to make them rest satisfied with the most scanty knowledge of the phenomena of disease. To the practitioner it would be useless, because it would teach him nothing new, and if perchance in perusing it, (which is not very probable,) he should meet with an idea which he did not recollect to have met with elsewhere, he would not find its truth supported by convincing evidence; and consequently if he were blessed with a sound and discriminating mind, he would pass it by as belonging to the thousand and one guesses, which abound so much in a certain class of medical productions, and which serve like a profusion of ornament or a holyday suit, to conceal from the eyes of the uninformed the poverty of the wearer.

T. S.

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ART. XVII. *A Clinical Lecture on the Primary Treatment of Injuries, delivered at the New York Hospital, Nov. 22nd, 1837.* By ALEXANDER H. STEVENS, M. D., Surgeon to the New York Hospital and emeritus Professor of Clinical Surgery. New York: 1837. 8vo. pp. 34.

This though termed a clinical lecture cannot strictly be regarded as such. It, however, contains some sound advice relative to the primary treatment of injuries. The distinguished lecturer, reprobates very justly the use of the lancet during the collapse from severe injuries, and indicates the proper course to be pursued in such cases. In noticing the writers who have treated on the subject, he might have referred to an excellent paper ("on the abuse of blood-letting in recent accidents,") by our colleague Dr. R. Coates, published in the *North American Medical and Surgical Journal*, Vol. I. p. 275, (for April, 1826.) We may notice a mark of inadvertence, in the repetition and in the same words at page 28, of the instructions relative to the method of inducing patients to swallow, given on page 23.

We propose to notice this lecture more particularly when we receive the remainder of the series of which this is the first.

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ART. XVIII. *An Experimental Essay on the relative Physiological and Medicinal Properties of Iodine and its Compounds; being the Harveian Prize Dissertation for 1837.* By CHARLES COGSWELL, A. B., M. D., Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, &c. &c. Edinburgh: 1837.

This is a very elaborate and complete monograph; comprising not only a digested summary of what was known relative to the physiological and medicinal properties of iodine and its compounds, but also much new and valuable information derived from numerous experiments instituted by the author. It is an important contribution to therapeutics. We regret that our limits at present, restrict us to a mere notice of the work, but we shall take an early opportunity to enrich our pages by extracts from it.